DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(*contd.*)

DEMAND XIV AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES—(*contd.*)

PRESIDENT: The House will now proceed to the discussion of motion No. 389.

Motion 389—(*contd.*)

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*): Sir, the object of Mr. Karayalar in making this motion is to bring to the notice of the Government that the experimental farm at Puliyara in Shencotta taluk is not accessible for want of road connection.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): I did not suggest that.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*): Then I did not hear him properly. I thought he said that it was not accessible for want of road connection and suggested that either a road should be opened and this farm developed or that a new one should be opened at Shencotta. Sir, I admit that there is no approach road to this farm. Even when I selected the site for the farm, I knew the difficulty and it was my intention then to have an approach road opened mainly from the Puliyara village up to the farm so as to make it accessible to the public. This site was selected because Government land was available at a place where experiments on various kinds of crops grown in the taluk could be conducted. There was scope for conducting experiments on paddy, cholam and various other dry crops that are generally cultivated in the taluk. As I said, it was my intention at the beginning to have an approach road made from the village to the farm and I suggested it to Government. They did construct a portion of the road from the village up to Bhagavatipuram railway station. It is only a question of extending it by a few furlongs up to the farm. That question was under the consideration of the Government and owing to financial difficulties the remaining portion of the road has not been completed. I may say that after the present economic depression is over when better times would come I may be able to persuade Government to have this approach road opened as early as practicable.

In regard to the question of abandoning this farm and opening another one at Shencotta, this is again a question of cost. I am not very particular of having the farm situated in this very place. Government have 25 acres at that site and the land is also suitable for growing various crops. Though 25 acres are not necessary for this purpose even 10 acres anywhere near Shencotta town would cost much. Nearly thirty or forty thousand rupees may be required for the purchase of lands at Shencotta. It was really the question of cost that weighed with Government to select the present site. The difficulty about the existing farm is only the absence of an approach road and when the road is opened I am sure the people of Shencotta will resort to the farm in larger numbers than at present.

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The object, Sir, of having a farm at Shencotta has not been made clear. In the Puliyara Farm we are only conducting experiments on various manures and crops and the results of the successful experiments are demonstrated not only at Shencotta but in different villages in the taluk. I remember to have started demonstrations in half a dozen villages about three years ago and I believe they are still being continued in different parts of the taluk. What the cultivators want is to see whether an application of a particular manure which has been recommended by the department is suitable to the lands in their locality. That object is being attained by the demonstrations that are being conducted in different parts of the taluk. So at present the real problem is the question of opening an approach road to the farm which will be taken up as early as possible and if that is not found feasible then the question of selling the land comprised in this farm and the opening of another farm in the headquarters of the taluk will be considered. This is all what I can say at present.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : I wish to know whether there is a proposal to make use of the Village Panchayats for the purpose of improving agriculture ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*) : They have not yet been formed in Travancore.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Now there is a proposal to constitute village panchayats. What I wish to know is, is there any proposal to make use of these village panchayats for improving agriculture ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*) : When the Village Panchayat Bill was introduced, I heard some members saying, that those Panchayats, when constituted, would be a very useful agency for the demonstration of the improved methods of agriculture. Government will consider this question when the Panchayats are to be established. I cannot say whether the Village Panchayat will be entrusted with the work of agriculture, until it is formed. I believe the question of forming a few Village Panchayats is engaging the attention of the Government.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : I wish to say a word in connection with this motion. The Agricultural Department is conducting experiments in different parts of the country with various kinds of manures. There are experimental farms and manure depots in different localities. I wish to suggest that the Village Panchayats which are going to be formed may be made use of for the purpose of improving agriculture. I find from the Village Panchayat Regulation that improvement of agriculture is not one of the obligatory functions of Panchayats but only one of their optional functions. Either a Panchayat may of its own accord take up this work or Government may direct the Panchayat to take up the work of agricultural improvement. Even if the Panchayats did not of themselves include in their programme of work agricultural improvements, I should suggest that the Government should

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[Mr. A. Thanu Pillai.]

direct them to take up this work also. Sir, it has been stated here on many an occasion by the Director of Agriculture, that our ryots do not readily take to new methods of agriculture, that they are indifferent in the matter of using new manures, new kinds of implements and so forth. In other words, the propaganda work that is done by the department is not as effective as it ought to be and a complaint was made here the other day that the department is not turning out as much useful work as is desirable. To me it appears that the chief reason for the failure of the department to turn out sufficient and satisfactory work is due to the agency for advising the people and asking them to adopt new methods of agriculture is not efficient. The Director of Agriculture says that the people are indifferent. If the people are indifferent whose duty is it to remove that indifference and induce them to adopt new methods?

MR. R. VAIDYALINGOM PILLAI (*Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Joint Stock Companies and Protector of Depressed Classes*): There are Co-operative Societies in every nook and corner of the country and they are doing demonstration work. May I know whether the member is aware of that?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I know that something is being done by Co-operetive Societies.

MR. R. VAIDYALINGOM PILLAI (*Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Joint Stock Companies and Protector of Depressed Classes*): Does the member know that societies which come forward for this work are given facilities?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I find from the reports what the society is doing. But that is not enough. Is it the suggestion of the Registrar of Co-onerative Societies that Co-operative Societies alone will be able to do all the work necessary?

MR. R. VAIDYALINGOM PILLAI (*Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Joint Stock Companies and Protector of Depressed Classes*): I beg to correct the impression.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I think that is not the suggestion. Not only that, many of our Co-operative Societies do not include in their programme this kind of work. Most of our societies are credit societies and they do not take very much trouble in regard to the improvement of agriculture.

MR. R. VAIDYALINGOM PILLAI (*Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Joint Stock Co npanies and Protector of Depressed Classes*): Because a society is a credit society, is it prohibited from doing this sort of work?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Generally I find that most of the societies are credit societies and they are lending and receiving money. I believe the Registrar of Co-operative Societies will not dispute that statement. There may be a few societies here and there that do other kinds of work. But that is not enough. The Agricultural Department, I mean the reformed department under the present Director

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has been in existence for the past 25 years. Still we find that sufficient improvement is not seen in agriculture. I attribute it mainly to the fact that people are not given sufficient instruction in agricultural matters. Whatever may be the extent of the work done by the Director as well as by his subordinates we find much remains to be done and I want to suggest to the House the desirability of making use of these Panchayats as means for bringing about improvements in agriculture. As for improved methods of ploughing, manuring and so forth, I believe a Village Panchayat will be able to do much more effective work than Co-operative Societies. From the nature of our people and from the nature of the constitution of the Village Panchayat I am sure—

MR. R. VAIDYALINGOM PILLAI (*Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Joint Stock Companies and Protector of Depressed Classes*) : Now the member has made a comparison and says that Village Panchayat will be able to do better work in this direction. How is that ?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : I wish to make myself clear as far as I can.

PRESIDENT : The point is this. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies says that his department takes up this work voluntarily. Is it your suggestion that these Panchayats which have certain obligatory powers given to them should exercise also the power to induce or compel people to take to new methods of agriculture? In the case of Co-operative Societies their work is of a voluntary kind. Those who wish may join the Co-operative Societies for the improvement of agriculture. Those who are members of the societies would work for it. But do you wish the Village Panchayats which have got certain compulsory statutory powers to exercise those powers to make the people to take to new methods of Agriculture ?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Yes. In the first place we have not got sufficient number of Co-operative Societies dealing with agricultural matters. If societies are formed specially for the purpose of improving agriculture, they may be table to turn out good work. But the existing societies, I mean credit societies, cannot be expected to turn out good and efficient work in the direction of improvement of agriculture.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Will there be a sufficient number of Village Panchayats to take up this work?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : It is far from me to suggest that Co-operative Societies should not be allowed to do this work or Village Panchayats alone should be asked to do this work. My point is that as many Co-operative Societies as possible may be asked to do this work. At the same time, Village Panchayats that are going to be constituted, should also be asked to do this work. I do not want that any particular societies or bodies alone should attend to this work.

Then there is one other advantage in the case of Village Panchayats They must work for the benefit of all people in a particular area.

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[Mr. A. Thanu Pillai.]

think there is a difference between a Village Panchayat and a Co-operative Society. A Co-operative Society can work for the people who are members of it. If I understand aright the constitution of the Village Panchayat is such that all the inhabitants in a particular area will come within the scope of that organisation instituted in that area. If it is a question of benefiting an area probably the Village Panchayat will be able to do the work more effectively. It is that aspect of the matter that I want to emphasise. I do not thereby mean that Co-operative Societies be are to be discouraged in the matter of turning out good work for the good of the people. Let them be encouraged as much as possible and at the same time see that the Panchayats are asked to attend to this work. That is all my suggestion. It should not be made purely a voluntary or optional work with them. Government will do well to direct them to do this work in suitable areas.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Is it the member's suggestion that Village Panchayats should replace agricultural departmental agencies in the villages?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Certainly not. I bring this suggestion on a motion in regard to the Agricultural Department and my idea is that the officers of that department should take advantage of the existence of Village Panchayats to improve agriculture.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Does the member say that it is to popularise the methods advocated by the department?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): That is what I say. I did not at all mean that Village Panchayats should replace the Agricultural Departmental agencies. I do not see how the question arises. My idea is that new methods should be suggested by the Agricultural Department and with the results achieved they should popularise it through these agencies and they in turn should be made the means for distributing manure and popularising new kinds of implements and so forth.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Should not the agencies have some scientific knowledge in regard to agriculture?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): As for that there are officers of the department who are now going about instructing people. A much more effective method of instruction would be for these officers to deal with the ryots through the agency of the Village Panchayats.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*) Your idea then is that the Village Panchayats should go to the help of the Agricultural Department and work in co-operation with them in popularsing the methods suggested by the Agricultural Department?

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Or rather the Agricultural Department should go to the help of the Village Panchayats in popularsing the methods. That is my suggestion.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : Sir, from the questions put by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies it has been made clear what real connection there is between agriculture and co-operation. That is true. Sir, Co-operation, as I understand it, is to a very large extent only an organisation of agriculture in a country where the mainstay of the people is agriculture. We find from the report of the Agricultural Department for some years, that there is not much difference either in the methods of work or in their achievements. I do realise, Sir, that experiments in agriculture take a very long time to fructify. It is for the scientist to fructify them and give results. But it may be because we are very anxious for the results that we feel dissatisfied with the work already turned out, though we recognise that some work has already been done in this direction. Sir, with regard to this question, in two ways the department works. One is in regard to education in scientific methods of agriculture and the second is experimentation of the various methods and various possibilities of agriculture and other allied subjects. With regard to education, I wish to suggest that this propaganda and separate agricultural schools so far as I am able to understand will not give the necessary results. Unless knowledge of agricultural methods and agricultural matters is widely disseminated, that is to say, unless agricultural education becomes an integral part of the education of the country, I do not think much good will result from the general endeavours of this department. If agricultural knowledge runs in one channel and the main current of education runs in another, I do not think the results that are expected by the department will be realised. If there should be a real dissemination of knowledge and if we want that the people of the country should take a real interest in the new scientific methods then agricultural education will have to be correelated in some organic way with the general education of the country. I want to saggest this idea—I do it with a lot of diffidence. But I would like to know what the opinion of the Director is with regard to this matter.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*) : Sir, I rise to support the motion before the House. It is certain, as far as the human eye could see the future, that agriculture will necessarily remain the mainstay of the people of this land. The Agricultural Department must be run on different lines to the manner in which it is being run. Routine and red-tape must be reduced to the barest possible minimum in those departments which must get into touch with the vast majority of the people engaged in a useful occupation, certainly, with life and vigour and spirit. My chief complaint against this department is that its methods of agricultural educational propaganda are not at all adequate to cope with the problem before it. In the earlier days of the evolution of Dr. Kunjan Pillai, he used to be a propagandist, and once a year at least we had the satisfaction of seeing him and listening to him. I do not know the reason why he has suspended his activities

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[Mr. O. M. Thomas.]

Perhaps he may be under the delusion that the people of Travancore have had the necessary instruction in this matter and that he is not prepared to inflict himself upon the public of Travancore in this wise. If it is so, he is certainly under a delusion. We cannot have too much of educational propaganda in this department.

Now there are some Agricultural Inspectors who ought to conduct propaganda to the great advantage of the ryots. Very often I see them in many parts of Travancore idling away their time and sending their travelling allowance bills with the least possible delay. Sir, that is not the way in which the main occupation of this land is to bepromoted. I want these Agricultural Inspectors and the other officers of the department to go about the country in a truly religious and missionary spirit engaged in the useful work of promoting the very important occupation of this land. Travancore is said to be a land of agriculturists and the Travancore Government, in the words of a former Dewan, is mainly the Government of the ryots—Government for the ryots. And if the Government are to justify that claim which they themselves advanced, more life, more enthusism and more energy must be infused into the Department of Agriculture. The present methods are altogether inadequate, unsatisfactory and disappointing. Dr. Kunjan Pillai is certainly a very able officer; not only that, I give him the compliment of saying that he is the Admirable Mr. Crighton of the Treasury Bench. I hope he will conduct himself to the same satisfactory way in the the Department as he conducts himself in this House. With these words, Sir, I support the motion brought forward in this House.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): Sir, I support the motion of Mr. Karayalar. Sir, the other day in my budget speech, I remarked that of all the departments the Agricultural Department is the least known to the ryots. It is not known to the ryots to the extent to which it ought to be known. It is not merely my personal opinion, but it is the opinion of the constituency to represent which I have the honour. Sir, I do say that from my observation of the Administration Report and from other observations elsewhere- I do say that this department is not working to any satisfactory extent. It is more than 20 years since this department was instituted. In Travancore there are ample facilities to make it self-sufficient as regards paddy. Yet all these facilities are not utilised in full. The blame rests upon the Head of this Department. Sir, on the floor of this Council, I challenge Dr. Kunjan Pillai to prove to the satisfaction of the members on this side of the House whether so far as Nanjanad is concerned, he has been able to grow two blades of grass where one blade was growing. I do challenge him again to prove to the satisfaction of this House whether he has been able to increase the output of paddy in Nanjanad by one measure or one *edangali*. Coming to the agricultural establishments in Nanjanad, Sir, the Tiruppatisaram Farm which consists of nearly 18 acres is not working to any satisfactory extent. The Inspector, the clerks and the peons there are all working unsatisfactorily. There

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coming to the Easantimangalam Cattle Farm, Sir, I appeal to the Head of the Executive to visit that farm. If he sees the cattle there he will find that these innocent cattle are reduced to mere skeletons. All this will go to show that on the Head of the Department there is great reluctance to do work. Sir, this irresponsibility of the Head of the Department ought to be remedied. I suggest to the Head of the Executive to get down some agricultural experts from Germany or Japan to do this work satisfactorily. With these words, I support the motion of Mr. Karayalar.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): Sir, the Director of Agriculture seems to think that the construction of an approach road from Puliyara to the farm itself would meet the requirements of the situation and make the farm useful or rather make the demonstration farm a demonstration farm. I am sorry, I cannot agree with the Director, Sir. The location of the farm is far away from agricultural holdings and far away from populated areas. It would therefore not be of any use to ryots who would profit by the demonstrations that are carried on there. As a matter of fact, the farm in question lies at the foot of the hills. Nobody would be inclined to walk or even to motor up to the foot of the hills for the purpose of witnessing the experiments carried on there. My suggestion is that the farm itself may be located in agricultural areas or somewhere near populated areas so that it may serve generally as a demonstration farm. Sir, the Director raised the question—

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Has the member himself visited the farm?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): I know where it is.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): He has not gone there?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): I have not gone there because of the inacessability of the place as I already mentioned. Then again, the Director suggested that the consideration that weighed with the Government in shifting it to somewhere near Shencotta or elsewhere is the question of suitability of the land. So far as I am aware the only crops that are raised in the agricultural farm are paddy and cholam.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*): Cotton also,

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): I can assure him, Sir, that the crops that are being raised in the agricultural farm at Puliyara can be as easily raised in the areas surrounding Shencotta. As regards the question of cost raised by him, the value of the land has dropped down considerably in recent years and it would be to the advantage of the Government to take advantage of the situation and go in for some suitable site in the neighbourhood of Shencotta. Lands are available in plenty and I can assure him that he can get suitable lands.

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MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): The Financial Secretary says that he is bankrupt.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): As for that matter I can tell the Agricultural Director that the present farm may be sold away and without any additional expenditure a farm may be opend at or near Shencotta.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): What would be the approximate cost of acquiring 25 acres?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): Why should he assume that 25 acres of land will be necessary?

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Say, the required extent.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): 10 to 15 acres. You can get that for Rs. 5,000 to 6,000. I suggest that with the price that would be realised by the sale of the present farm another farm can be opend somewhere about Shencotta. I would therefore request the Director to seriously consider the question of the abolition or the removal of this farm to somewhere near Shencotta.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*): Sir, although the mover of the motion brought up only the question of the farm at Puliyara various aspects of agricultural improvement were raised in this House, you will allow me, Sir, to answer all the points raised. There is no difference of opinion between Mr. Thanu Pillai and myself as regards utilising the Village Panchayats when they are formed for agricultural propaganda. As Mr. Madhavan Pillai suggested agricultural officers will heartily co-operate with the Village Panchayats and try to popularise improved methods of agriculture through them. The officers are carrying on propoganda even now. I do not know whether they are really going about, as Mr. Thomas wanted, with a missionary spirit. I will see that they do so to popularise improved methods of agriculture.

Then, Sir, the Agricultural Department is aware of the fact that non-official agencies for popularising improved methods of agriculture are not only as good as but are even better than official agencies. The department is well aware of this fact, and if one reads through the reports of the department one will find that in places where the department started manure depots the people saw the advantages of chemical manures and came forward to take up agencies for the sale of such manures. The department is encouraging private individuals to do this. Co-operative Societies have also come in large numbers for agencies for selling manures. There are also Co-operative Societies which are maintaining stud bulls. Several Co-operative Societies are co-operating with the department in popularising improved methods of agriculture. I only mention this to say that we are alive to the question of utilising private agencies to carry out agricultural improvements.

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MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*) : Has there been any complaint about the inferior quality of the manure supplied by the contrators ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*) . Yes. There were complaints and they were looked into. Once there was a complaint about the quality of ashes supplied by a contractor. I enquired into it and found it to be true. I therefore refused to pay the contractor's bill. He even served a lawyer's notice on me and threatened me with a suit.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*) : Are such complaints frequent ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*) : No. When I received one or two complaints I enquired into them and put down the abuses.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*) : How long ago was it ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*) : About three years ago. What I say is that we will be only too glad to co-operate with non-official agencies to popularise improved methods of agriculture. As far as the Village Panchayats are concerned, as Mr. Thanu Pillai pointed out, improvement of agriculture is not one of their obligatory functions. It is only optional. If it is to be made obligatory the law has to be amended.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) . Cannot the Government do that by means of rules ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*) : Government will only be too glad to do so if it is possible. There is therefore absolutely no difference of opinion between Mr. Thanu Pillai and myself on this pont.

Then, Sir, a general charge was made that the department is absolutely useless, and that it is not turning out good work. That seems to be the trend of the opinions expressed by some members to-day. I may perhaps admit that the department is not doing as much as it ought to do, but surely it is doing as much as it could do with the resources available, and in the circumstances in which it is placed. I must say that the department is doing as much as it can.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*) : Has the Director of Agriculture submitted any scheme of re-organisation to Government to make his department more useful and more beneficial to the public ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*) : Yes, I have.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*) : When was that done ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*) : Two or three years ago I submitted some proposals and off and on proposals have been submitted and some sanctioned. The department had only a budget of a few thousand rupees when it was created. Now it has got a budget of Rs. 2½ lakhs. I have been pressing the necessity for expansion on the attention of the Government, but of course, it is not possible always for the Government to sanction all the recommendations

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[Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.]

of the Heads of the Departments. Government have got to consider not only the claims of one particular department but of all the departments. All the same, I must say that I have submitted to the Government a re-organisation scheme to make the department larger than it is at present. Just to show how the expenditure on this department now stands I will give you some figures. If you compare the expenditure with that of one or two other countries it will be found that we are not spending after all much. In Ceylon where there is a population of 4½ millions, the expenditure per head is 3 annas 6 pies; in Madras with a population of 46 millions, it is one anna; in Travancore with a population of 5 millions it is a little more than half an anna. If you take the agricultural population it comes to 1 anna 10 pies per head in Travancore. If you take the area under agriculture it is 1 anna 6 pies per acre. The scope of the department here is however being increased as time goes on. It is not possible to make the department as one would wish it to be all at once. It is a question of funds and also a question of getting properly trained men. It is not enough if you have trained men. You must be able to make use of them. At present there is some difficulty in getting trained men. The Agricultural Colleges in Madras and Coimbatore are closed to us. Every year I get applications from a number of young men for admission to those Colleges but they do not get it. All these points have to be considered before we can ask for a very large expansion of the department. However, my point is that as far as circumstances permit—I must differ from my friends on the other side in this respect—the department is doing as much as it could. As for the challenge of Mr. Nadar, I am perfectly willing to take it up. I will convince him if he will go with me to Nanjanad of the good work done by the department there. As for responsibility, he will feel it, I am sure, when he grows a little older, but now he can afford to be without it. Sir, I say I will take him to Nanjanad and show him how Nanjanad ryots have been benefited by improved methods of agriculture. Sir, four or five years ago, not one Nanjanadian thought of using chemical manure. In this House itself, complaints were heard about it. But in 1105 chemical manure was very largely used. The value of manure sold in Nanjanad in 1105 was more than a lakh of rupees and in 1106 it would have trebbled itself but for the economic depression. Now Mr. Nadar is not aware of this fact. Ever so many leading cultivators are aware of it. Go to Tazhakudi and ask the Muthapillai there or go to Darisanamscope and ask the cultivators and they will tell you about it.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): May I inform the member that I am speaking only after consulting the Muthapillais.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*): I know that chemical manures are used in large quantities in Nanjanad.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): Is the manure very costly?

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RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*): May be costly or not. They are using it in large quantities. But for the depression prevailing at present more manures would have been sold there. That is the fact and I am therefore prepared to take up the challenge of Mr. Nadar.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What is the approximate increase in the return if manure is used?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*): Last year at this time I said that for 10 rupees spent on manure you may get 20 rupees in return.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): What should be the worth of paddy to get such a return?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*): At the present price of paddy if the increase in the yield is about 2 Kottas per acre; it will cover the additional cost of manuring.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): How many demonstrations were conducted in 1105?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*): I shall answer you later on. In Agastisvaram intelligent cultivators, some years ago, were using a higher seed rate. The seed rate used to be 10 or 12 Marakkals in the transplanting season. But now it is only 3 or 4 marakkals. With this reduced seed—

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): May I ask whether the Director of Agriculture believes in this fact that the opinion of a member is the opinion of the constituency which he represents? (*Laughter.*)

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*): It may be or may not be. But I am making statements which I can substantiate.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): Does the member know that I am coming from the heart of Nanjanad?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*): Sir, he may come from the heart, head or tail of Nanjanad. But I can assure him that I am making a statement which I can substantiate.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): Does the member know that the representative of Agastisvaram comes from the granary of South Travancore?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*): In 1104 there was a very serious pest on paddy in South Travancore, called schoenobius vipunatefer which Mr. Nadar would call chenkomari. By experiment it was found that it was a small insect which lays its eggs on the nursery when the seedlings are young. We investigated it and found that it could be removed from the nursery before transplanting the seedlings. We organised a campaign just a year ago all along the road from Putheri to Darsanamcope. We sent round men and examined all the nurseries and weeded out the affected plants. The pest was

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[Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.]

thus eradicated. I can give a number of instances like this to show that Nanjanad ryots have been benefited by the work of the Agricultural Department. But I do not think I need give any how at present.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): If to-morrow the Government pass an order abolishing the Agricultural Department can the Director of Agriculture estimate the probable loss that the State would incur on that account?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*): The member may calculate the loss himself. I have not got time to calculate it now.

I wish to deal with one other point which was referred to by Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai and by Mr Thomas, and that is the question of agricultural education. Sir, there are two schools of thought as regards the question of agricultural education. One set of people think that to give really practical training to agriculturists you should not tack on agricultural education to general education. By tacking agricultural education to general education you can only give an agricultural bias to general education and you cannot turn out practical farmers. Of course you create some interest in agriculture in boys and that interest may be developed later on. If a student is so inclined he can join a purely agricultural school later on and get the necessary training to become a practical farmer. The system by which general education is given an agricultural bias is very good, of course, to create an interest in agriculture. But I believe it was tried in many places and found unsuccessful. If you attempt to teach practical agriculture to the ordinary boys in the schools, I am afraid, you will fail. As I said it has been tried in many countries and that has ended in failure. As far as Travancore is concerned, Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai may not be aware of the fact, that some years ago a Curricula Revision Committee presided over by Mr. Hodgson was appointed and I gave evidence before that committee in connection with agricultural education. My suggestion was that agricultural education should be introduced as an optional subject in the schools and to make the teaching effective small gardens should be attached to the schools where agriculture should be taught practically. Well, Sir, the committee accepted the first part of my recommendation and introduced agriculture as an optional subject in some schools. But they did nothing with regard to the second part of my recommendation. They introduced agriculture in the Vernacular Schools and prescribed text books, and the subject is being taught even now although not satisfactorily. To create an interest in practical agriculture, you will have to get the boys to do some practical work and that was why I suggested that small gardens must be attached to the schools. However, pure theoretical book knowledge is even now imparted in schools which, I must say, is certainly not satisfactory. I have no doubt that when Government think of appointing a Committee to over-haul the system of education in this State this question

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will also engage their attention. It is really a very important question. All that we should aim at is to give an agricultural bias to education and not to attempt to turn out practical farmers. To turn out practical farmers I believe, and ever so many others also believe, the best thing to do is to have pure agricultural schools like we are having in two or three places in Travancore at present. What we do there is to make the boys work with spades during the mornings for a couple of hours, and give lessons on theoretical farming in the class. 20 of these boys who have been trained in the Agricultural Schools are settled in a colony at Konni. They are carrying on scientific cultivation of banana, tapioca, etc, on modern lines, and I believe the colony is really a successful one. The other day the Director of Agriculture of Hyderabad came here and when he heard of this colony he visited it and I was told that he was immensely pleased with it. It appears he said that as soon as he got back to Hyderabad he was going to start a colony like this there. Mysore has started a colony more or less on these lines. My idea in having these Agricultural Schools is to give practical training to boys and turn them into practical farmers and then give them lands and loans to begin cultivation. I am sure that this will prove a successful system.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Does not the member think that it would be enough if we adopt the system obtaining in the Punjab?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*): I quite agree that the system obtaining in the Punjab is successful in so far as it creates interest in agriculture in boys, but when they leave the school they do not go back to the land. They continue their higher education and even go to the colleges. It is open to them either to go back to the land or to continue their education. The real defect in the Punjab system, it seems to me, is that the students do not go back to the land after the school course.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Is there any hope of the Director's suggestion regarding the opening of small gardens in schools being acted upon?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*): As I said I made the suggestion to the old Committee on the revision of curricula. Now Government are contemplating the appointment of a new Committee to go into the whole question of education and I am sure this suggestion will also be considered by that Committee.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Does not the member continue to think that it is a highly profitable idea?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*): It is so. I am certainly of that opinion.

Then, Mr. O. M. Thomas referred to the lectures used to be delivered by me. At the beginning, when I was practically the only one officer in the department I had to do a great deal of propaganda work. I used to go about the country and deliver lectures—even now

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[Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.]

I have not given up that practice—I am doing it now and then when there is necessity for it. But I must say that I have got subordinates in my department who can also deliver lectures. The officers of the Agricultural Department attend co-operative conferences where a large number of agriculturists assemble, take part in the proceedings and deliver lectures on agricultural subjects.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*) : Do these lectures form part of their official work ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*) : They do. They have to do propaganda work.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*) : Is the Director in a position to give us figures in regard to such lectures ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*) : I have not got the figures, but I may say that all of them are doing propaganda work. It may be that some of them are not good platform speakers and not able to deliver lectures so eloquently as my friend does. But they are able to speak in a homely way.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*) : Is there any rule that an Agricultural Inspector or any other officer of the Agricultural Department should deliver so many lectures ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*) : There is no such rule.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*) : Is there any convention ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*) : As I said it is really part of the duties of the Agricultural Inspector.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*) No, no. That is no answer to my question. I wish to know whether there is any convention prescribing the delivery of a certain number of lectures ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*) : There is no rule.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (*Kottayam*) : That is all right.

PRESIDENT : Mr. Thomas, I would deprecate temper in members when they are speaking to one another or asking for information.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*) I think I have answered all the points raised by the members. I oppose the motion of Mr. Karayalar.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*) : May I ask the Director.—

PRESIDENT : He has already sat down.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*) : Sir, the Director has not answered my question regarding the location of the Puliyara farm.

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RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*) I told the House even at the very beginning that the question will be considered. I cannot give a definite answer off-hand because I am not in a position to do so without consulting the Government.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*) : I beg to withdraw the motion.

PRESIDENT : Does the House permit the motion to be withdrawn ?

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 390.

The following motion was not moved :—

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI :

To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1,76,436 under Demand XIV—by Re. 1.

PRESIDENT I take it that the House passes Demand XIV—Agriculture and Fisheries Rs. 1,76,436.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XV—INDUSTRIES.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): In the unexpected absence of the Director of Industries owing to sudden illness, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 1,09,541 under Demand XV—Industries.

Motion 391.

The following motion was not moved —

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI :

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,168 for establishment by Rs. 2,324.

Motion 392

The following motion was deemed not to have been moved as the member was absent :—

MR. K. I. KOCHEEPPAN MAPPILLA :

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,168 for establishment by Rs. 10

Motions 393 and 394.

The following motions were not moved :

MR. K. KRISHNAN NAYAR :

393. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for travelling allowances by Rs. 1000

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN :

394. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for travelling allowances by Rs. 10.

Motions 395 and 396.

The following motions were deemed not to have been moved a the member was absent :

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI :

395. To omit the allotment of Rs. 14,928 for Direction.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI :

396. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,050 for Sri Mulam Technical School by Rs. 10.

Motion 397.

The following motion was not moved.—

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